

Career Research Project on Nursing

By

NAME

## Career Research Project

### Nursing

Nursing is a challenging career that has numerous employment possibilities. Nurses are responsible for the care of individuals in hospitals, nursing homes and rehab. Nursing is a profession whose main goal is to assist individuals, families, and communities in reaching, maintain, and recovering optimal health.

Nursing is a highly demanding profession that requires individuals to be able to work under pressure in an often under-staffed environment. During a nurses 12 hour shift he/she is responsible for monitoring the health of several patients. Depending on the specific wing of a hospital a nurse may give medications/needles, take vital signs, change dressings, complete chart work, and assist patients with numerous activities. Each department in a hospital setting comes with various responsibilities. Most nurses tend to work in a hospital, location often determines the working conditions. It is not a secret that there is a worldwide shortage of nurses, insufficient resources and rural environments tend not to have the up to date equipment, for example as a city nurse working in a major city in Canada.

Although nursing is rewarding there are many hazards. Nursing requires that individuals work shift work covering twelve hour periods. Night shift is mentally and physically draining. Lifting and moving patients improperly can result in the injury of a nurse's back. Further improper care of needles could result in a nurse receiving a "pick" which could result in the transfer of a disease or virus.

It is common for nurses to experience a mental burn-out because of the staff shortage in health care professions. Trying to complete the numerous tasks shorthanded is mentally and physically draining.

Nurses are required to maintain 450 hours of work each year to keep their license. In order to get their license student nurses are required to complete a particular number of practical hours which varies as well as pass a national nursing exam, once they have completed their four year university degree. Employability skills are needed for you to enter, stay in, and progress in your chosen vocation. Nurses must have excellent communication skills because in most work environments they have to work with people. When families have suffered a loss they need to be able to comfort or they need to be able to clearly communicate a patient's physical condition. Nurses need to be expert information managers because everything they do on a daily basis must be logged/documented.

In terms of personal management skills nurses must have positive attitudes, be extremely responsible, able to adapt to changing working conditions, be committed to learn new information, Teamwork is a must have skill in order to work productively with the other health professionals in their work environment.

In New Brunswick, individuals wanting to pursue a nursing career may do so through attending the University of New Brunswick at any of their three campuses; Fredericton, St. John, Moncton, or Bathurst, or Humber College in Toronto, Ontario. Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia also offers a nursing program.

In order to be accepted into the nursing program at the University of New Brunswick you need a minimum average of 75% in your grade 12 course. In addition you must have passed (70%) English 122, Geometry and Applications 112, Math 122 (Functions and Relations or Trigonometry and 3 spaces, Chemistry 122, Biology and two other grade 12 electives.

#### “Cost Projection Analysis”

Nursing at UNB- Year one.

(Based on attending UNB Fredericton Campus.)

Tuition \$5,008  
Residence and Meals \$6,768  
Student Fees \$174  
Media Fees \$25  
Facilities Improvement Fee \$175  
Student Health Insurance \$137  
Dental Insurance (optional) \$112  
Technology Fee \$50  
Books, Equipment, and Supplies \$1,200-\$1,500  
Local Travel \$600  
Spending Money \$1,000  
Parking \$70  
Total Projection \$15,419

In order to finance a nursing degree a student loan from the province of New Brunswick would be first choice. Payments begin 6 months following a student's exit from university.

A second option would be going to the Credit Union and get a co-signed loan. Minimum payments need to be made while attending university so a part-time job would be necessary. Should payments not be made this could result in receiving a poor credit rating.

Should a student determine nursing was not for them a program to be a LPN (licensed practical nurse) is available. An LPN is an assistant to a nurse.

Some nursing graduates require more of a challenge and go on to study to be a doctor. There are numerous jobs in the health care system to satisfy a student wanting employment in this area.

The current economic trends project a shortage of nurses. The number of retirements far overweigh the graduates from a nursing program. A nurse could travel anywhere in North America to acquire employment.

Job security is excellent as long as an individual could cope with the demands of the profession.

A nurse in New Brunswick can expect to earn a minimum of \$50,000 in their first year of employment. There is a lot of opportunity for over-time which could greatly enhance the salary.

SAMPLE

## Works Cited

UNB website: [www.unbf.ca/prospective](http://www.unbf.ca/prospective)

Interview: Gillian Steeves, nursing student  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Interview: Mr. M. Stewart, Guidance Dept.  
Petitcodiac Regional School  
Petitcodiac, NB.